

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Withdrawn) A method of massaging the gums comprising contacting the gums with a bristle formed of a thermoplastic elastomer which is a styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene block copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer, a styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer, a polyolefin elastomer, or a mixture of any two or more of said elastomers, and having a Shore A hardness of 30 or greater.

26-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Withdrawn) A method of making a toothbrush bristle comprising coextruding a plurality of polymers to form an elongated filament having a plurality of separate phases.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein one of said polymers comprises a thermoplastic elastomer.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein said polymers are coextruded in a sheath/core geometry.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 further comprising applying tension to said filament to draw the filament.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, wherein the tension is applied at a drawdown ratio of from 1:1 to 7:1.

38. (Canceled)

39-44. (Canceled)

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group consisting of polyetheramides, polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers, polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, and mixtures thereof.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further comprising selecting a thermoplastic elastomer as the sheath material.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group consisting of polyetheramides, polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers, polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, and mixtures thereof.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 further comprising incorporating an abrasive additive into the thermoplastic elastomer.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46 further comprising incorporating an abrasive additive into the thermoplastic elastomer.

50-54 (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) An oral brush comprising

an elongated handle;

a head portion, sized for insertion into the human mouth, extending from
an end of said handle; and

a brush portion comprising

(a) one or more elastomeric element(s) extending from said head portion to
a radiused terminal end to contact one or more teeth, said elastomeric element(s) comprising a
thermoplastic elastomer which is a styrenic block copolymer, a styrene-ethylene-butylene-
styrene block copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer, a styrene-isoprene-
styrene block copolymer, a polyolefin elastomer, or a mixture of any two or more of said
elastomers, ~~and having a Shore A hardness of 30 or greater.~~

(b) a plurality of bristles extending from said head portion comprising a
non-elastomeric material[.],

wherein said elastomeric element(s) extend(s) upwardly from said head portion in substantially
the same direction as at least some of the non-elastomeric bristles.

56. (Currently Amended) The oral brush according to claim 55, wherein said elastomeric
element(s) comprise(s) a thermoplastic elastomer having a Shore A hardness of ~~35 to 55~~ 30 or
greater, and said thermoplastic elastomer comprises styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene block
copolymer.

57. (Previously Presented) The oral brush of claim 55, wherein said thermoplastic
elastomer is sufficiently soft so as to avoid gum irritation during gum massage.

58. (Previously Presented) The oral brush claim 55, wherein said bristles are a
polyamide.

59. (Previously Presented) The oral brush of claim 55, wherein said bristles are a
polymeric material including an abrasive.

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Serial No. : 10/692,916
Filed : October 24, 2003
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Attorney's Docket No.: 00216-368005 / OB-84E

60. (Previously Presented) The oral brush claim 55, wherein said bristles have a diameter of from about 5 to about 10 mils.

61-62. (Canceled)